

Digital Inclusion Trailblazers: Recognition for Local Governments

About Trailblazers

[Digital Inclusion Trailblazers](#) are municipal, county, or regional governments that are paving the way and providing excellent models for digitally inclusive communities. They are intentional. They are invested. They are committed to advancing digital equity.

The Trailblazers recognition isn't just an award — it's also a collection of valuable resources. The places selected as Trailblazers provide models to aspire to, demonstrating how local governments can support their own digital inclusion ecosystems.

Digital inclusion advocates should also use Trailblazers as an advocacy tool. Make your municipal leaders aware of this program, and encourage them to use the categories and resources as a beacon to inform their own digital inclusion plans.

2023 Trailblazer Community (Returning applicants)

To streamline the application process, the [application form](#) will generate your prior year's application materials. We ask that you review the materials you submitted to determine which are still relevant and which are out of date. Any out of date information will need to be resubmitted by sharing appropriate files or links in your 2024 application (this window). As with new submittals, updated documentation will be reviewed by NDIA and is not guaranteed approval. Applicants are encouraged to submit materials for indicators that they did not achieve in 2023.

A note on indicator *1b: Dedicated local funding for the current fiscal year*. Documentation from last year does not qualify. Applicants who received points for this last year must submit updated documentation in order to receive points for this year's application.

Purpose and Value

To uphold the spirit of the program and the prestige of reaching Trailblazer status, NDIA, with input from local government practitioners, established four guiding principles to illustrate the purpose and value of the program.

The Digital Inclusion Trailblazers program:

1. Sets a **national standard for excellent digital inclusion work**. Backed by NDIA's trusted expertise, Trailblazers is now the country's benchmark for local governments.
2. Establishes an **honor roll** that bestows prestige on local governments that achieve Trailblazer status
3. Serves as a free and open **knowledge database** for digital inclusion resources and information tried and tested by local governments in their communities

4. **Promotes digital inclusion work** and creates an incentive for local communities to articulate their digital inclusion efforts and make them official

Who Can Apply

Digital Inclusion Trailblazers accepts applications from local governments.

Local governments eligible to apply include:

- Municipalities, townships, counties, and regional governments

Trailblazer Categories

1. Dedicate Resources
2. Fund or Aid Digital Inclusion Programs
3. Participate in Digital Inclusion Ecosystem
4. Engage the Community
5. Advance Digital Inclusion Through Policy
6. Use Data to Inform Digital Inclusion
7. Create a Local Digital Inclusion Plan

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